

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 12347 291440Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-03 NSC-10 SS-15 RSR-01 /122 W

----- 084532

R 291329Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7106

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS BONN 12347

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR GW EEC

SUBJECT: SCHEEL INTERVIEW ON "NEUTRALIZATION" AND US-EUROPEAN
RELATIONS

SUMMARY. DURING AUGUST 28 INTERVIEW WITH NEUE RHEIN ZEITUNG,

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PAGE 02 BONN 12347 291440Z

FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL WAS QUERIED ON ALLEGATIONS OF FRG DRIFT
TOWARDS NEUTRALIZATION AND ON PROSPECTS FOR US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS.

HIS REPLIES FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

1. NEUTRALIZATION. QUOTE: EVERYONE WHO LIVES IN THIS COUNTRY WITH HIS EYES OPEN MUST REGARD SUCH A REPROACH AS ABSURD. THERE IS IN THE FRG NO RESPONSIBLE POLITICIAN -- EITHER IN THE GOVERNMENT OR OPPOSITION -- WHO FAILS TO SEE A CLOSE CONNECTION BETWEEN OUR EAST EUROPEAN AND WESTERN POLICY. WE HAVE ALWAYS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE DETENTE POLICY WITH THE EAST CAN ONLY BE POSSIBLE ON THE BASIS OF A FIRM ALLIANCE POLICY WITH THE WEST. WE HAVE STRENGTHENED NATO THROUGH OUR OWN CONTRIBUTIONS; WE HAVE STRENGTHENED WEST EUROPEAN INTEGRATION; WE HAVE REACHED AN ACCELERATION OF INTEGRATION IN WESTERN EUROPE AND FINALLY ALSO THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY. MANY FORGET THESE THINGS. ONLY AFTER THESE FIRM BASES IN THE WEST EXISTED, WERE WE ABLE TO ADDRESS EASTERN EUROPE. AND I GO STILL FURTHER -- OUR WESTERN ALLIANCE WAS NOT ONLY NOT AN OBSTACLE FOR OUR DETENTE POLICY; ON THE CONTRARY, NATO IS THE CARRIER OF OUR DETENTE POLICY. NATO NOW HAS THE TASK TO GUARANTEE MILITARY SECURITY AND ALSO HAS UNDERTAKEN A POLITICALLY ACTIVE ROLE. END QUOTE.

2. US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS. ASKED ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR PRESIDENT NIXON'S PLANNED VISIT THIS AUTUMN TO WESTERN EUROPE, SCHEEL SAID: QTE: I CAN ONLY HOPE VERY STRONGLY THAT PRESIDENT NIXON WILL COME IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE THAT, ALREADY, EUROPE IS TO BE A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT PARTNER IN THE NEXT DECADE FOR THE USA. BUT THERE IS SOMETHING FURTHER. THERE IS THE STRONG NEED FOR A ... CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE USA AND EUROPE WHICH SHOULD EXTEND TO ALL AREAS WHICH ARE IN THE COMMON INTEREST. WE HAVE FOR A LONG TIME WISHED AND REQUESTED THIS DIALOGUE AND THE US HAS RESPONDED. NOW THEY WAIT FOR AN ANSWER FROM US. PART OF THIS ANSWER MUST STILL BE FOUND ..., (HOPEFULLY) AT THE SEPTEMBER FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN COPENHAGEN. I CANNOT DENY THAT THE ATLANTIC DIALOGUE ALSO HAS DIFFICULTIES... THERE ARE CERTAIN SECTORS IN WHICH THERE STILL IS NOT AN ACTUAL EUROPE. WE MUST SEE HOW THE DIALOGUE WITH A GROUP OF COUNTRIES IS TO BE CONDUCTED... WE WILL FIND TECHNICAL POSSIBILITIES. THE WHOLE SITUATION IS COMPLICATED BUT NOT UNSOLVABLE. END QUOTE.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BONN12347
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973089/aaaaagjb.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Aug-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <28-Aug-2001 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SCHEEL INTERVIEW ON "NEUTRALIZATION" AND US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, GE, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005